


Mother-of pearl inlay wooden screen

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.:	57.56.1-2 
Type:	object for daily use; carving
Date of production:	19th century
Place of production:	Vietnam, Southeast Asia
Materials/Technique s:	wood, mother-of pearl inlay, openwork
Dimensions:	insert: height: 60, 5 cm width: 47, 5 cm stand: height: 43, 5 cm width: 54, 5 cm
Acquisition:	collection of Dezső Bozóky

Wooden mother-of pearl inlaid (peony motif) frame with a decorative inset of the same material, featuring a group of people in the centre. The inlaid figures together form a pyramidal composition. In the centre is a male figure holding a symbolic sceptre (rui), with a small female character behind him, holding a fan over the head of man. Besides, we can discover several other figures in the foreground: an older man on the left, with a calabash hanging from his stick, and a lotus on his left palm. In front of him is a small boy with a scroll, right next to an almost indistinguishable animal that may once have been a chi-lin with a child on its back. On the other side of the Chinese unicorn, symmetrical with the previous ones, a figure of a small child peers out from behind the back of an adult.

